

EPISODE #122
November 17, 1994

The Valley 66 COMIC

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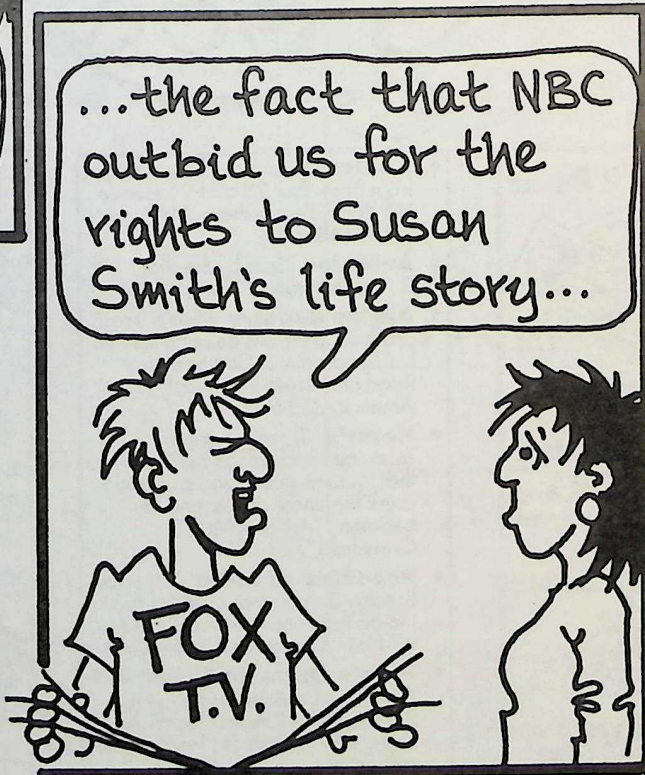
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STORIES:

USA TODAY
AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS
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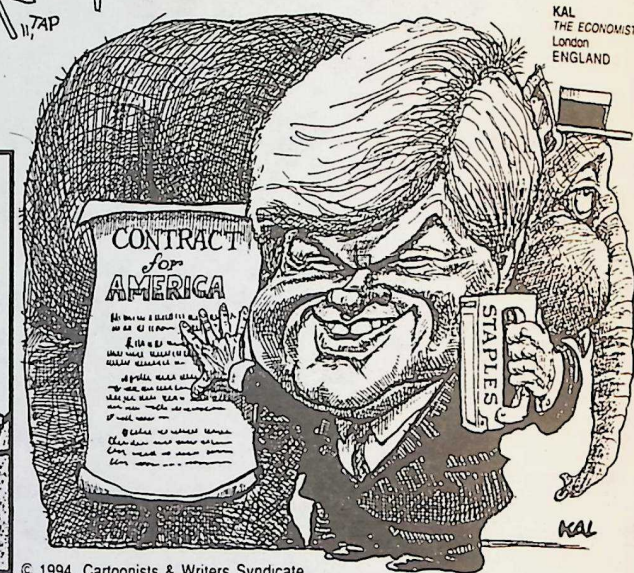
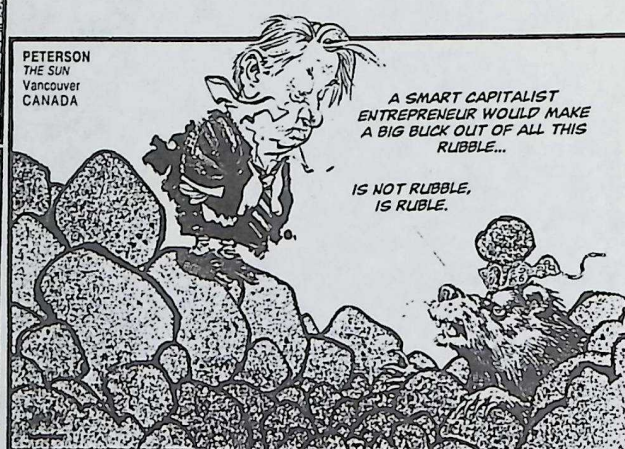
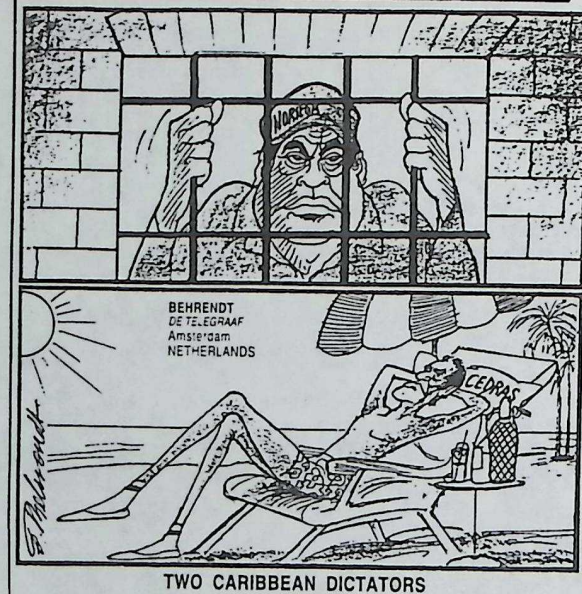
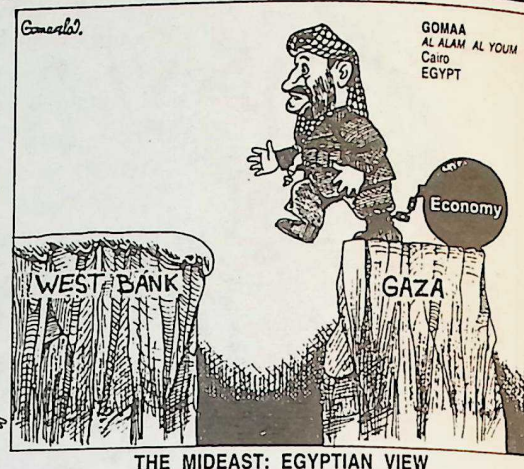
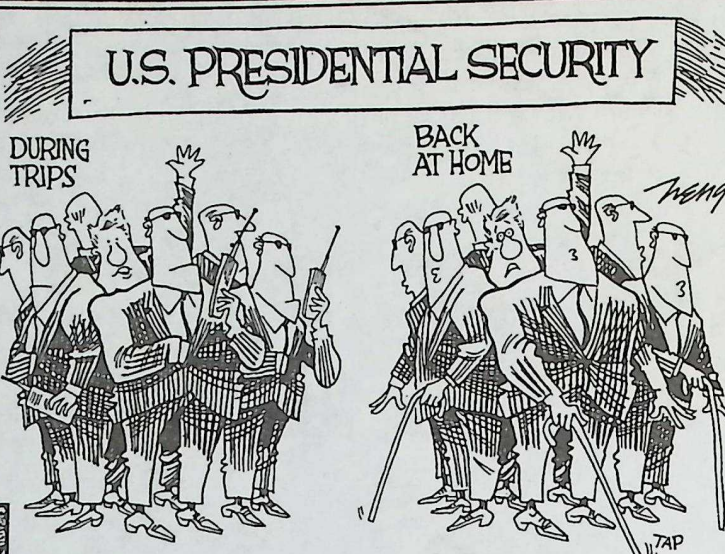
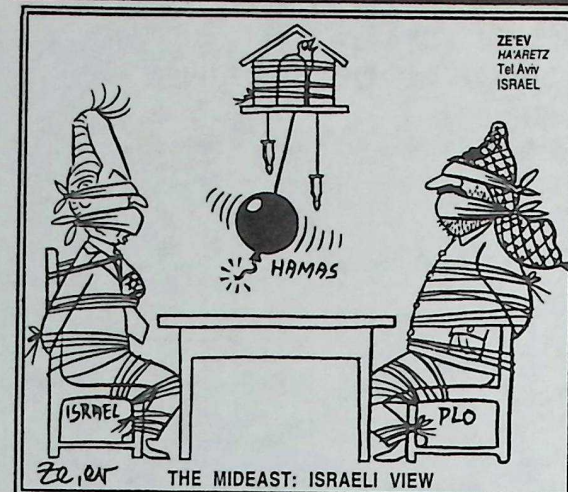


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ECOTOON



VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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Food

Potatoes Peaches Plums Cherries Strawberry

Oregano Mushrooms Oranges Bananas Sweet Corn Chilis

Apples Pecans Raisins Squash Watermelon Grapes Cucumbers

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Chives Summer Squash Lettuce Celery Green Beans Cucumbers Zucchini Walnuts Grapes Watermelon

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

A couple weeks ago I stopped at the Greenfield, Mass. Food Mart on my way home from work. I've been a loyal shopper there since the early 70's back when it was a teeny little baby Food Mart — a mom & pop supermarket. Now, like everything else, it's way too enormous for any living thing to deal with.

Anyhow, the next day was a special friend's birthday, so I thought I'd pick up some roses. I shuffled over to the Service Counter and asked them to page somebody for Florist. They did. Five minutes went by. I asked them to page again. They did. Another five minutes went by. I asked them to call the manager. He sidled over three minutes later. So now I've been standing like a post in the Florist Department for going on fifteen minutes, wondering why America's service economy is plummeting toward third-world status. I tell the manager, "Look, I'm here so long I'm growing moss. Not only has Food Mart got a dissatisfied customer, they've also lost a sale on roses, which is not your el-cheapo floral arrangement, because I'm gonna go across the street and buy 'em at Big Y!" Then the manager says to me — and you students of America's 20th Century decline take note — he says, "Ain't nothin' I can do about it." That's all. *Finis*. Case closed. "Ain't nothin' I can do about it." Couldn't say, "Sorry you had to wait." Couldn't tell me, "Hey, we're really hurtin' for staff today." Couldn't ever say, "C'mere — how many roses you want?" Nope. Nothin' he can do. His hands are tied.

The next day was the midterm election, and after the amazing results were tabulated, I thought some more about Mr. Food Mart and his "nothin'".

Now, I don't pretend to know what this election was all about. Hahahahahahaha! Of course I pretend to know what it was all about. That's why they pay me. This election meant that after Ronald Reagan allowed us to be comfortable with our prejudices, and George Bush allowed us to admit we were comfortable with our prejudices, now we get to act on our prejudices. This election meant our cities can go to hell, and who cares? It meant it's OK to have 20% of the populace owning 48% of the nation's wealth, because, darn it, I wanna be one of those 20%. This election meant nastiness works; it's good; it's a right fine way to deal with other people, especially people who don't have as much stuff as we do. This election meant we want to get government off our backs, and into the bedroom, where it belongs.

In sum, this election was about washing our hands of everybody else's problems. The dudes who hammered out our Constitution started it off with the following Communistic words: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." This election meant we think those words are horse pucky. It meant we don't really give a rat's hiney about what "we the people" can do for the union, or anybody else, and that's the way it oughta be. It meant we wash our hands, shut our eyes, call it fate, and keep on drinkin'. It meant: "Ain't nothin' we can do about it."

The Valley Comic News

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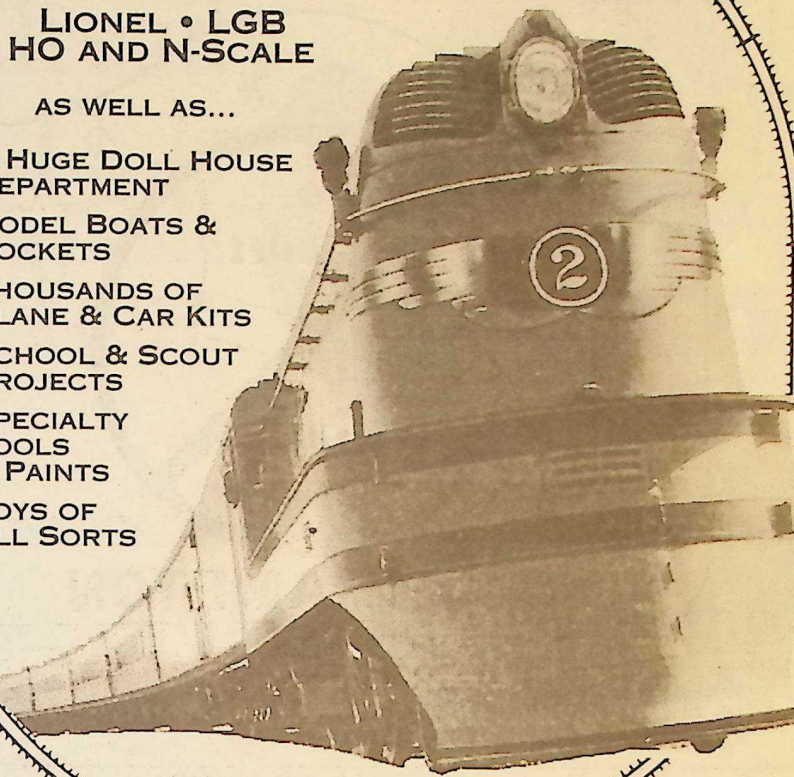
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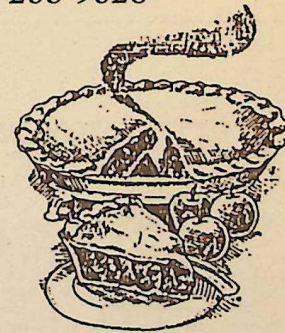
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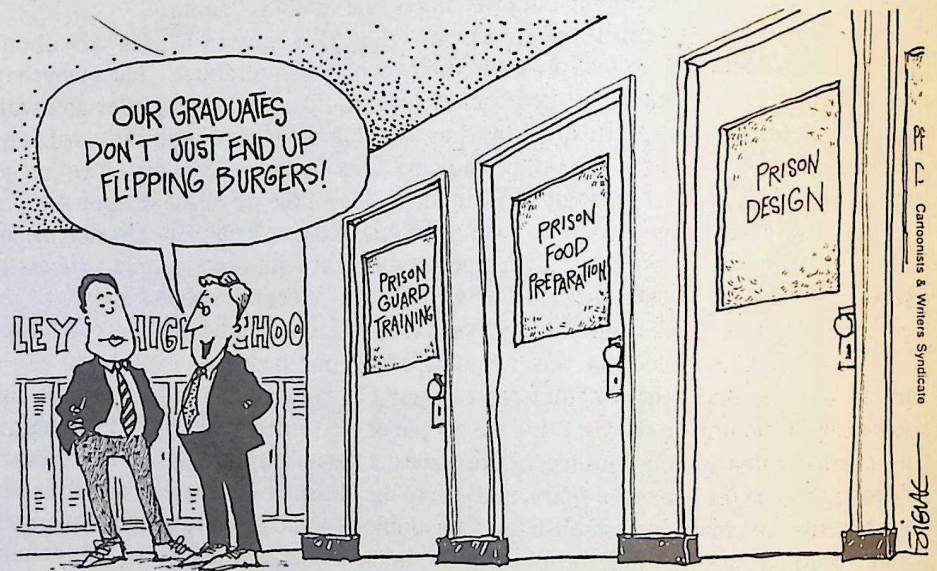
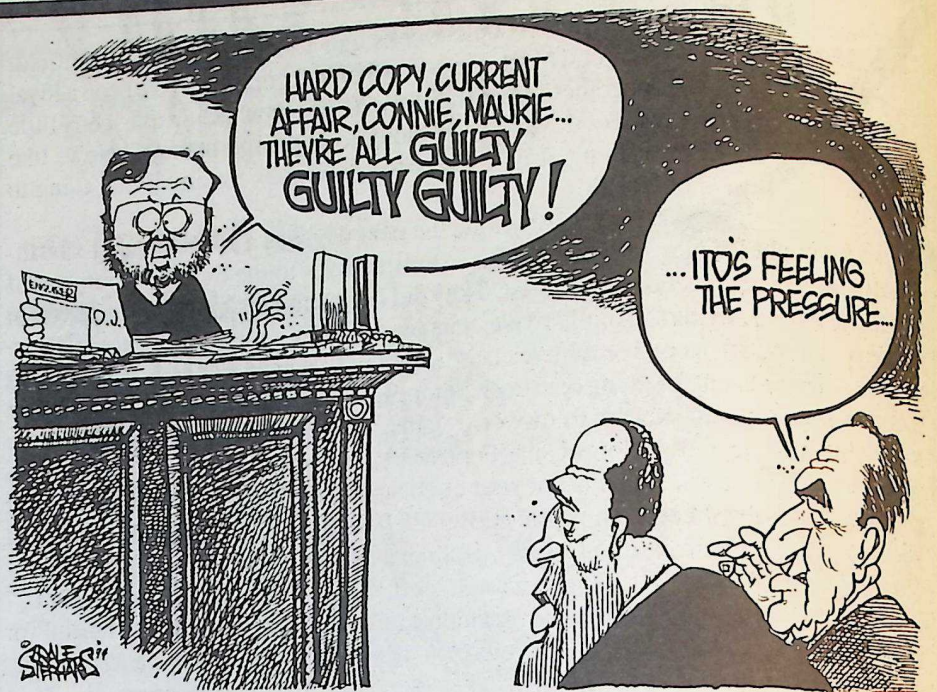
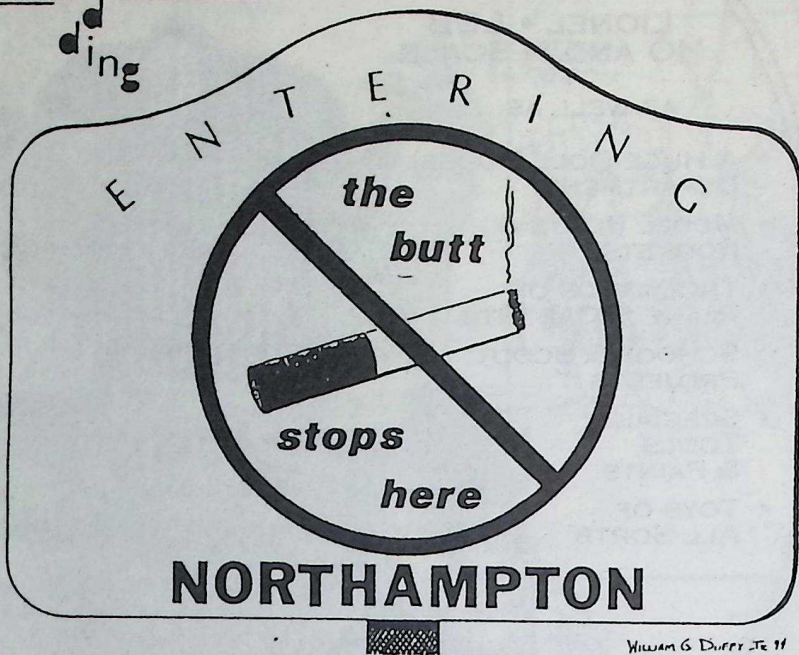
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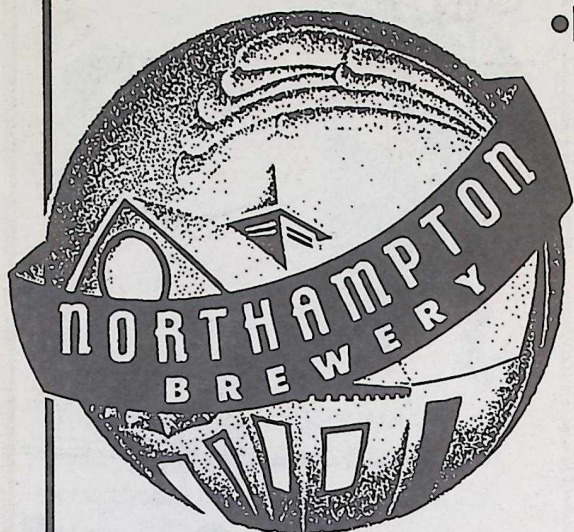
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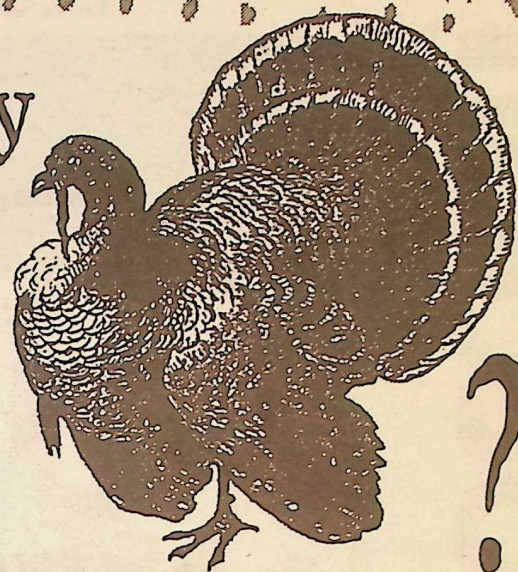
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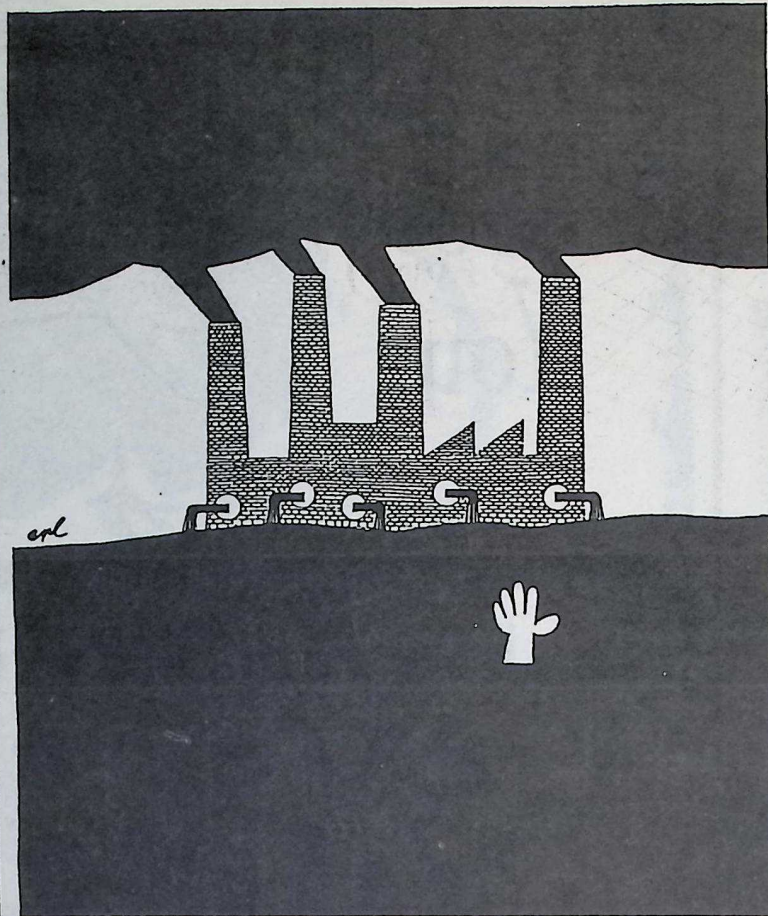
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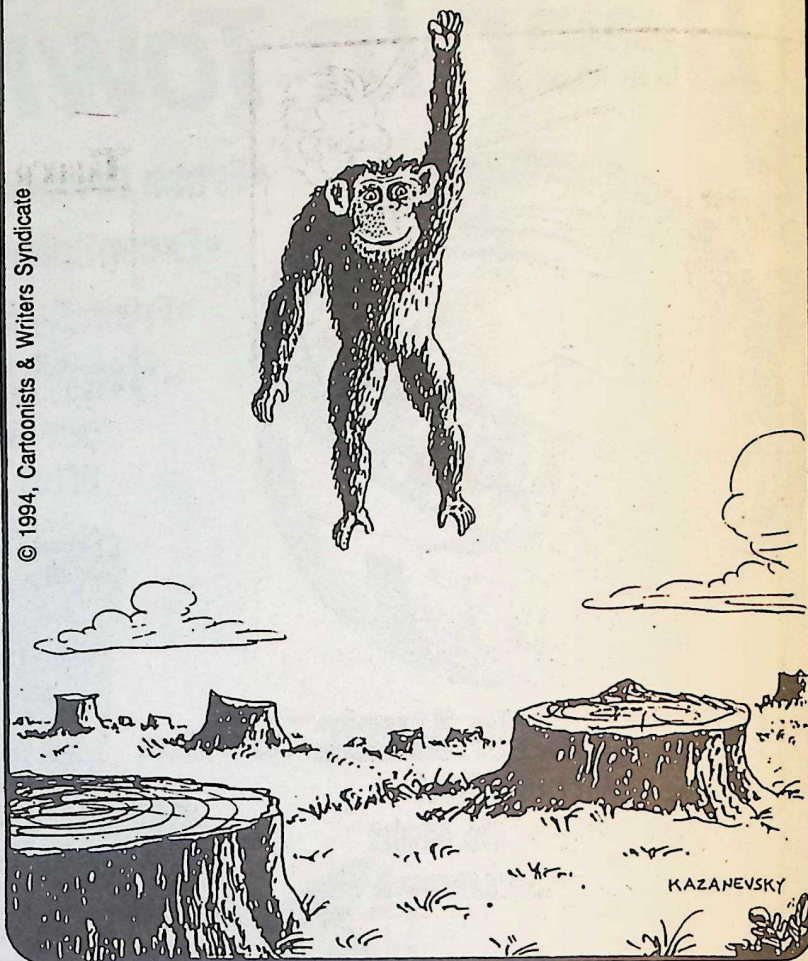
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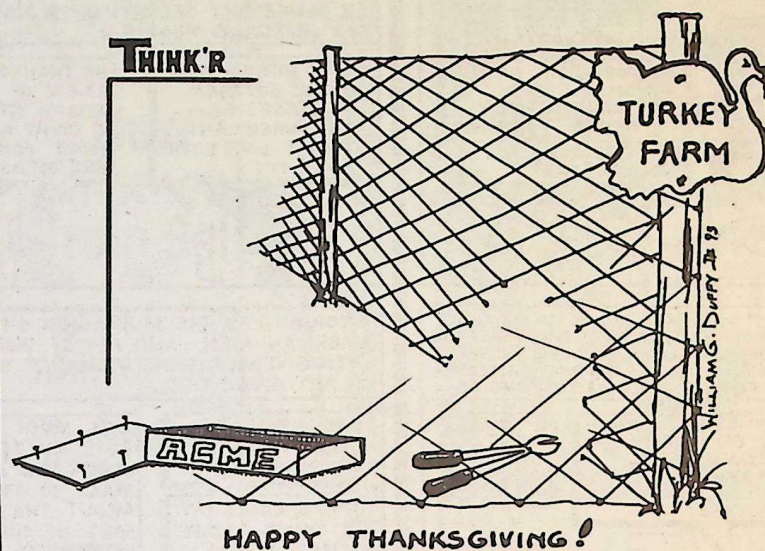


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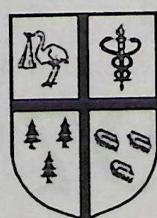
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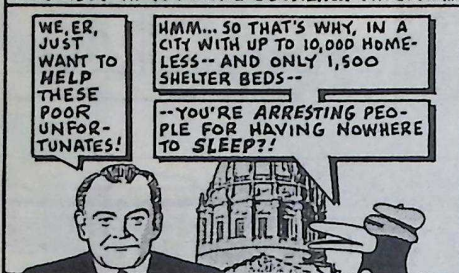
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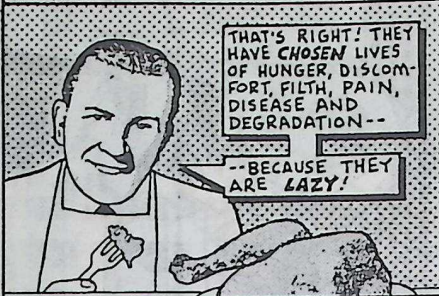
THE MEDIA CALL IT "COMPASSION FATIGUE"--THE GROWING SENSE IN OUR SOCIETY THAT, AFTER A DECADE OF IGNORING THE HOMELESS, IT IS NOW TIME TO ACTIVELY PERSECUTE THEM...



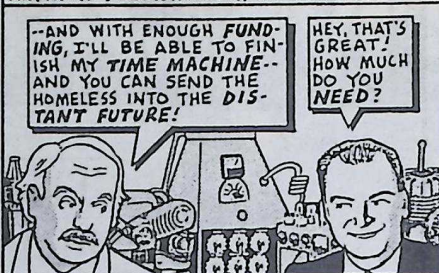
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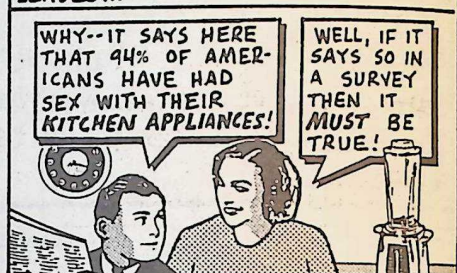
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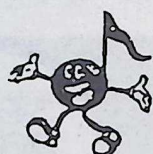
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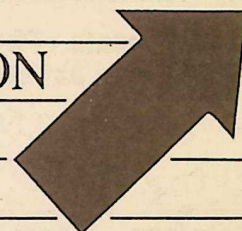
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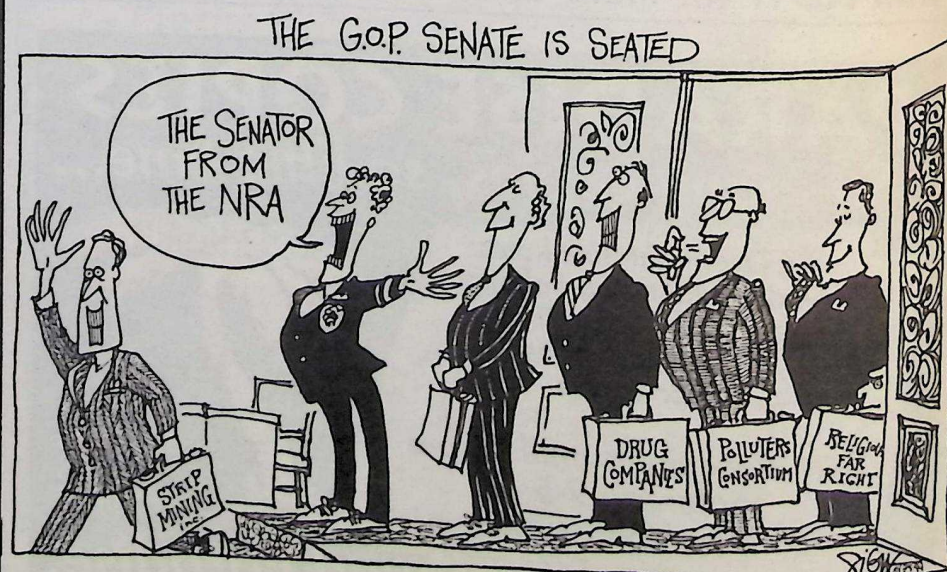
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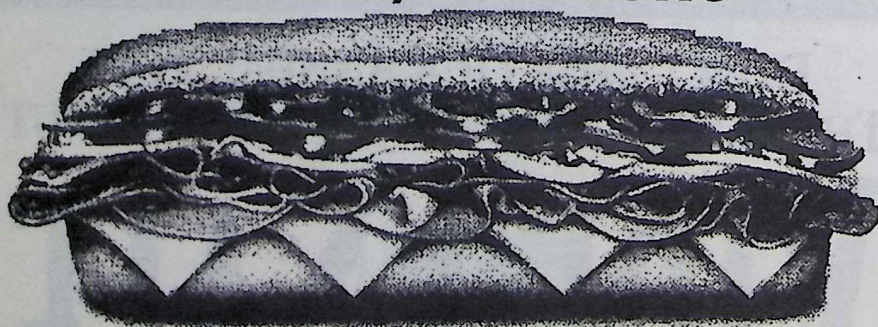
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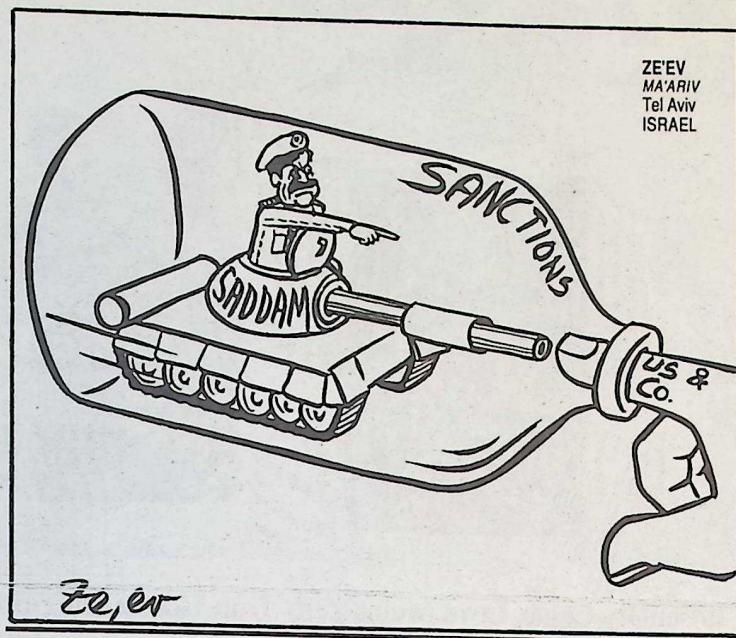
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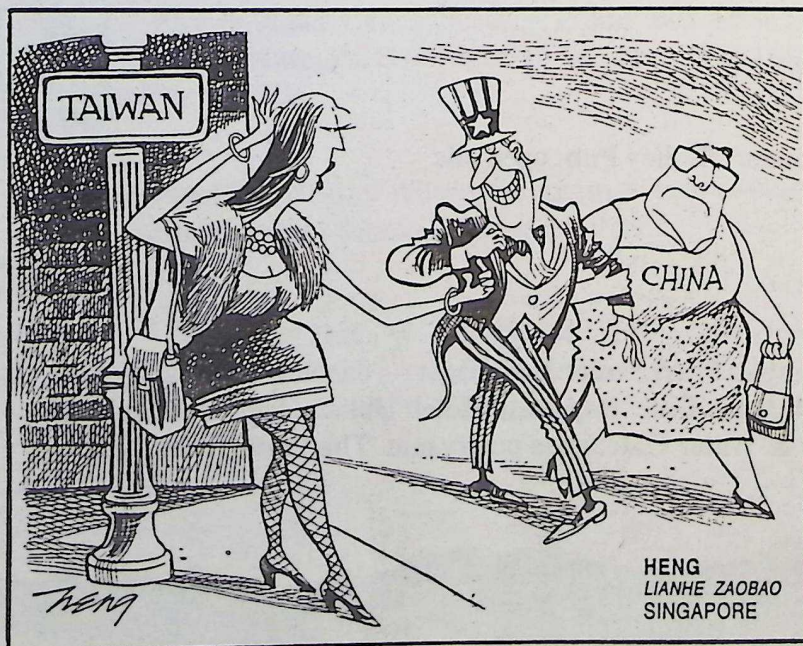
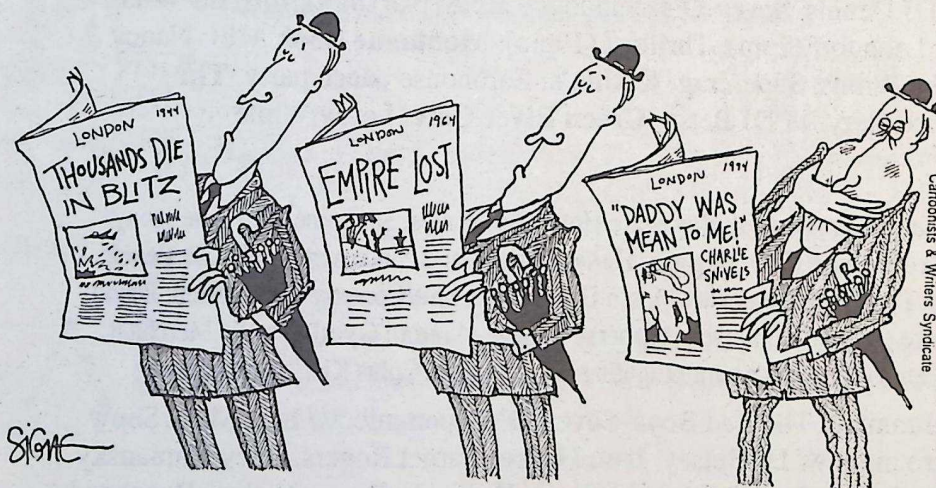
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LISTEN UP 1995



THU SEVENTEEN

Katina's: Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel:** Rent Party, Rosemary Caine, Love Minus Zero **Iron Horse:** Greg Brown
Hadley Pub: blues open mic **Seven O's:** DJ dance club **Pearl Street:** Dada, Rob Rule, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Steven (black tie night)

FRI EIGHTEEN

Pearl Street: Synaesthesia, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis **Seven O's:** Sundown **Hotel Northampton:** Ed Vadas Band **Iron Horse:** Robert Earl Keene, plus Peter Lehndorf (7pm), Thrillcat (10pm) **Montague Book Mill:** Nancy Rockland-Miller **Bay State Hotel:** Flycatcher, The Wrens, Superdrag **Katina's:** Eurohouse dance party **The Waterfront:** Mending Wall **North Star:** 18+ dance party, w/ DJ Betsy **Green River Cafe:** Leroy White

SAT NINETEEN

Katina's: Selectrocution **Montague Book Mill:** Young Filmmakers Festival **Bay State Hotel:** Ass Ponies, Saturnine 60, Pirate Jenny **Hotel Northampton:** Marion Groves & Tom McClung **Green River Cafe:** Begonia **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ JP **Pearl Street:** Room Full of Blues, plus dance party w/ DJ Lance **The Waterfront:** Ray Mason Band **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** David Alan Grier **North Star:** La Folia (flute & guitar), plus dance party, w/ DJ Steven **Amherst College (Alumni Gym):** Natalie Merchant, Katell Keineg **Seven O's:** Sundown **Iron Horse:** Sol Y Canto (7pm), Hampshire Lighting Project (10pm), plus Klar's Bar till 1am

SUN TWENTY

Northampton Brewery: Chet Keefe Trio, Little Jimmy & The Bad Boys **Seven O's:** open mic, w/ host Mark Snow **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **North Star:** Retro night w/ DJ Betsey **Iron Horse:** Garnet Rogers, Lucy Kaplansky **Green River Cafe:** Contrapunctus (10:30 am), Keith Murphy, Nightingale (8pm) **Katina's:** Doom Nation, Bonehead **Amherst College:** The Nields, Ellis Paul

MON TWENTYONE

Fire & Water Cafe: open stage (7pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Katina's:** Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve

TUE TWENTYTWO

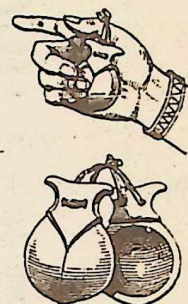
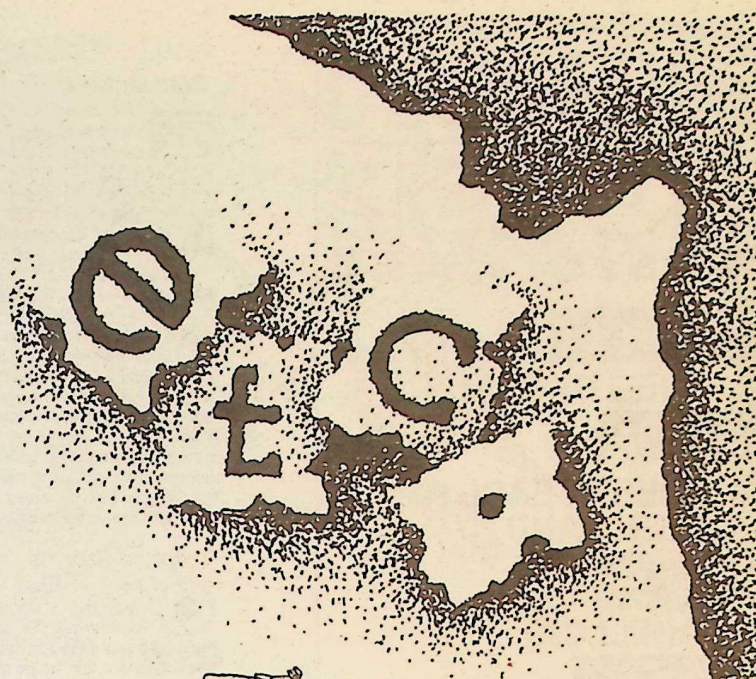
Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Chris O'Connor **Hadley Pub:** open mic

WED TWENTYTHREE

Hadley Pub: Reggae party **North Star:** Swing dance night **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Homegrown night, w/ St. James Gate **Bay State Hotel:** Holiday special: Thanks for Nothin', starring Angry Johnny & The Killbillies **Fire & Water Cafe:** open poetry mic **The Waterfront:** NRBQ



A contingent of belles from The Young At Heart Chorus' production of Flaming Saddles Tobey photo



THU
TWENTYFOUR

Go somewhere and be with people you like.

FRI
TWENTYFIVE

Bay State Hotel: Blue Streak, The Coyotes **Hotel Northampton:** Ed Vadas Band **North Star:** Dance party, w/ DJ Betsey **Pearl Street:** The Sighs, plus Retro night w/ DJ Dennis **Katina's:** Eurohouse dance party **Iron Horse:** Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters, Chet Keefe Band (7pm), Red Helmut Discipline (10pm)

SAT
TWENTYSIX

North Star: 21+ dance party w/ dj Steven **Green River Cafe:** Iron Skillet **Bay State Hotel:** Rock Gods From Chicopee, The Time Beings, Raymond & The Circle **Hotel Northampton:** Marion Groves & Tom McClung **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ Dan **Pearl Street:** Eek-A-Mouse, plus Saturday night dance party w/ dj Lance **Iron Horse:** Wolfgang (7pm), Ben Demerath (10pm)

SUN
TWENTYSEVEN

Northampton Brewery: The Maggies, Darwin **Iron Horse:** Jonathan Stevens, John Coster/Susannah Keith **Katina's:** yeP!, Jaya The Cat, Spring Heeled Jack, Choke Puppy **Green River Cafe:** The Gutterbirds **Montague Book Mill:** PVFS Song & Story Swap (4:30) **Seven O's:** open mic w/ Mark Snow **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **North Star:** Andrea Nathenson (guitar & vocals), plus Retro dance party w/ dj Betsey

MON
TWENTYEIGHT

Fire & Water Cafe: open stage (7pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Katina's:** Gay Night, w/ DJ Steve **Iron Horse:** Rhythm & Blues Dance Party

TUE
TWENTYNINE

Pearl Street: Kim Wilson **Northampton Brewery:** open mic w/ host Paul Hansbury **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Iron Horse:** lecture series — Michael Lerner

WED
THIRTY

Iron Horse: Dude of Life **Fire & Water Cafe:** Open poetry mic (7pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State electric open (no cover), hosted by The Veronica Cartwrights **Pearl Street:** Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Homegrown night, w/ Joe Keenan Band **Hadley Pub:** Reggae party **North Star:** C & W dancing

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THUR 17

GREG BROWN

FRI 18

ROBERT EARL KEEN BAND

FRI 18 10pm
THRILLCAT

SAT 19

SOL Y CANTO

SAT 19 10pm
HAMPSHIRE LIGHTING PROJECT

SUN 20

GARNET ROGERS
plus Lucy Kaplansky

FRI 25

RONNIE EARL & THE BROADCASTERS
plus Chet Keefe Band

FRI 25

RED HELMET DISCIPLINE

SAT 26 7pm
WOLFGANGSAT 26 10pm
BEN DEMERATH

SUN 27

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SUSANNAH KEITH

MON 28

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WED 30

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Gold Mountain

Colombian officials fear that gold-hungry prospectors may rush to a volcano in the south of the country following an announcement by a U.S. scientist that the mountain is spewing forth a pound of gold each day. Research by Fraser Golf of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico indicates that about 45 pounds of the precious volcanic debris from Galeras collect in surrounding rocks each year. Colombian experts claim the volcano releases far less gold, and in fragments so small that they are of no commercial value. Still, a safety zone established following an eruption in January will be guarded to keep potential prospectors far away from the mountain's elusive bounty.

Tropical Storms

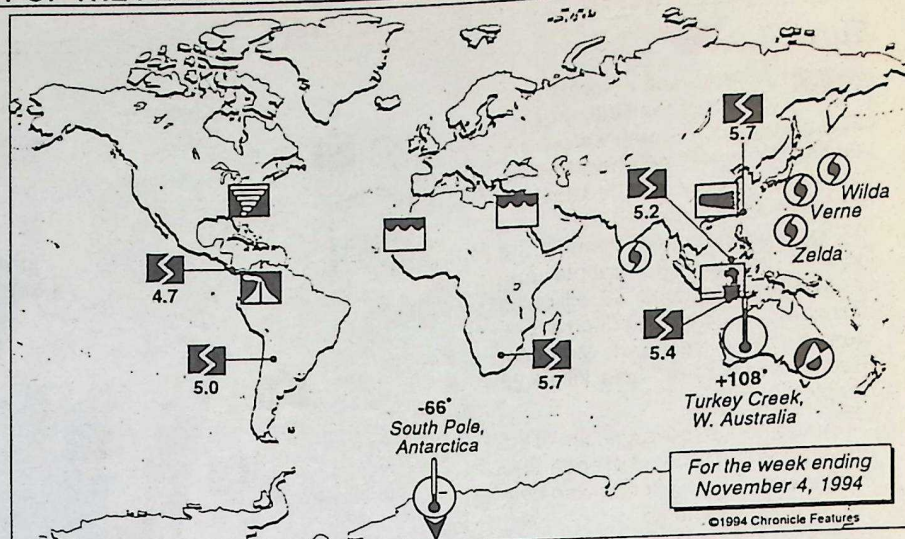
An unnamed tropical cyclone slammed into southern India, where at least 89 people died in rising floodwaters across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Powerful winds from the storm toppled electricity pylons and telephone poles around the city of Madras.

Typhoons Verne, Wilda, and Zelda formed near the Mariana Islands in the tropical Pacific Ocean, then lost force as they passed over colder waters southeast of Japan.

Gustnado

Severe thunderstorms rolling over Maryland spawned a small tornado that tore the roofs off of hundreds of row houses and small businesses in Baltimore, but caused no significant injuries.

Weather experts say the rare twister was formed by a "gust front" generated from high winds flowing out of a nearby thunderstorm. This type of phenomena is also referred to as a "gustnado."



Floods

Hundreds of people died as a result of the worst rainstorms to strike Egypt in 60 years. Many of the victims perished in a conflagration caused when a huge fuel spill, possibly ignited by lightning, swept like napalm through a village about 200 miles south of Cairo.

Seven people died in a rainstorm that swamped refugee camps of the West Sahara liberation front, Polisario. Hundreds were made homeless, and several schools were destroyed by the inundations.

A Clearer Day

A lingering haze over Indonesia's half of Borneo has lifted, allowing airline service to resume in central Kalimantan after weeks of disruption. The haze, a result of months of slash-and-burn farming and forest clearing, has also blanketed Malaysia and Singapore.

Earthquakes

Tremors in the east Malaysian state of Sabah sent government ministers scurrying down emergency exits from their high-rise offices in Kota Kinabalu, where they were holding a cabinet meeting. There were no reports of significant damage or injuries from the shaking.

Earth movements also were felt in East Timor, South Africa, Taiwan, central Chile, and Costa Rica.

Drought

The deepening drought across eastern Australia has forced Sydney municipal authorities to impose severe restrictions on residential and commercial water use. Despite recent light rains, the Warragamba Dam, which supplies most of the city's water, is only at 60 percent capacity and running out of water quickly, according to a water board spokesman.

Sino Yeti

Sightings in China of the "abominable snowman" may be a source of skepticism and joking to most people, but a governmental scientific body has begun to take them very seriously. The new group is composed of eminent scientists from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, one of the country's largest officially-backed research centers. At their inaugural ceremony, the group announced that the existence of a yeti-like "half-man, half-creature" was a strong possibility and could provide crucial information relating to the history of human evolution. The "savages," or "snow men" as they are called in China, are said to be covered in hair, stand more than 6 feet high and leave large footprints in forests and on snowy fields.

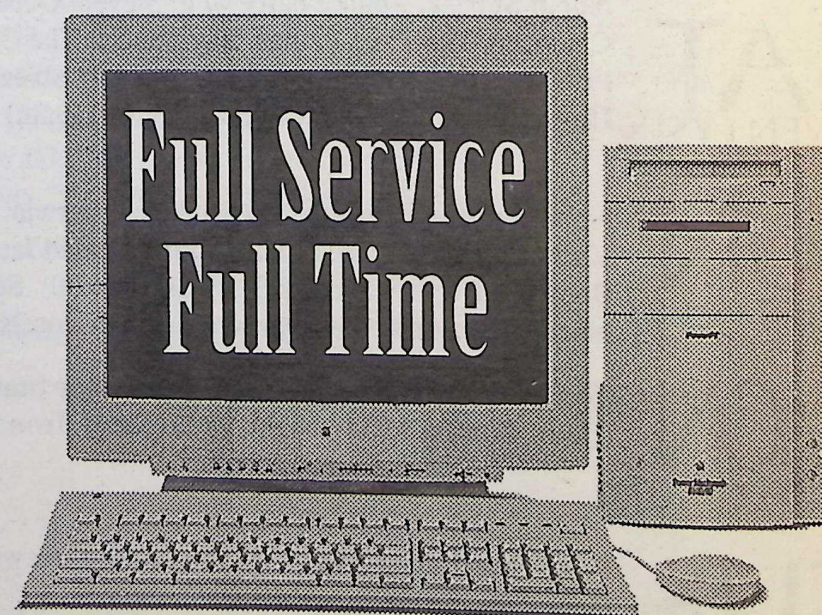
Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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Euro Floods

Decades of deforestation and irresponsible redirection of natural waterways were said to have worsened the devastating floods that washed through northern Italy. Cloudbursts and resulting flash floods claimed the lives of at least 80 people and caused an estimated \$6 billion in damage. Fierce Mediterranean storms raking parts of Morocco, France and Spain, also killed 23 people.

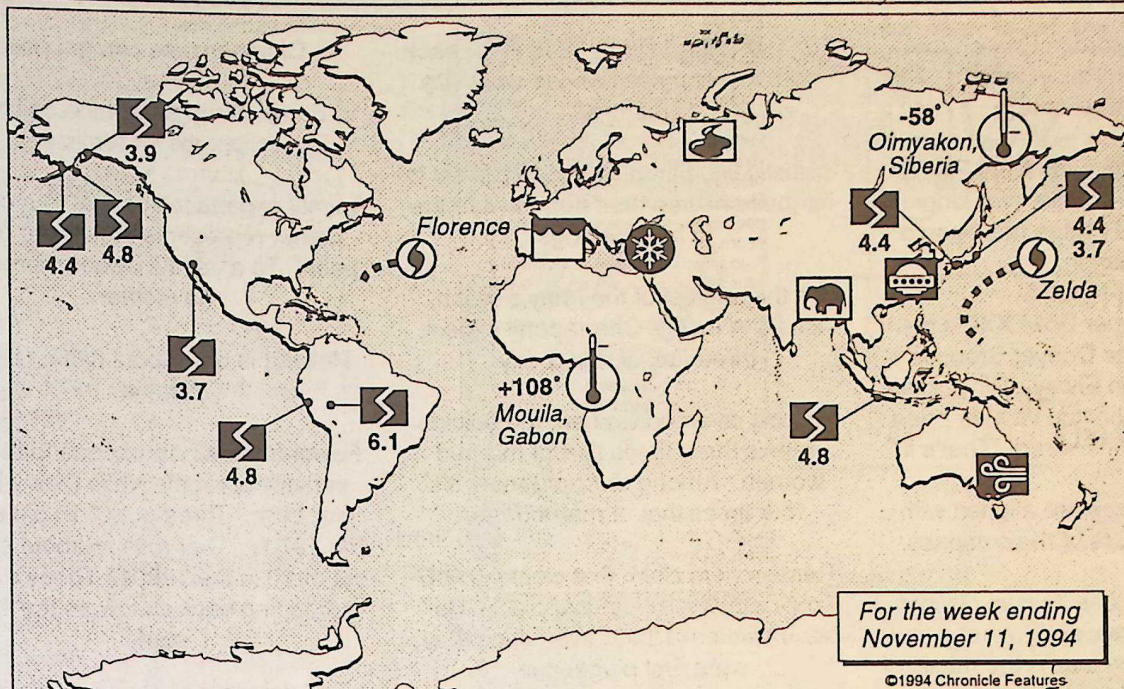
In addition to the large loss of life and staggering amount of economic damage, the Italian floods also devastated the country's renowned white truffle crop. The world's gourmets are likely to pay a much dearer price for the pungent fungi during the next year.

Autumnal Blizzard

Heavy snows on the fringes of the devastating Mediterranean storms isolated 1,200 villages in eastern Turkey and paralyzed traffic across the region. The unusually early and severe onset of wintry conditions caught most people unprepared to deal with the large drifts of snow that blocked roadways and rail lines.

Shanghai Sighting

Numerous citizens in the Shanghai metropolitan area reported spotting UFOs on the afternoon of Nov. 3, according to the government-funded *Wen Wei Po* newspaper. One of the spotters was a Bank of China staff member who, while on his way home, stopped his bicycle on a bridge and joined a crowd of people watching a white, revolving object. One woman reported seeing a saucer-shaped object that emitted silvery light rays. *Wen Wei Po* went on to say that this object split in two, with one part moving away to the east, and the other to the west.



Tropical Storms

Typhoon Zelda sent high surf pounding into the beaches of southern Japan, but otherwise was a threat only to shipping lanes.

Late-season hurricane Florence passed harmlessly over the open waters of the mid-Atlantic.

Wild Winds

Hurricane-force winds tore apart homes and factories, blocked roads and fanned scores of brush fires along Australia's eastern seaboard. Thousands were forced to flee their homes as winds of up to 90 miles per hour whipped across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. On the tourist resort of Bribie Island, north of Brisbane, residents fought blazes with garden hoses as the flames reached beachside cottages. The winds whipped up huge ocean waves that washed out parts of several coastal highways.

Earthquakes

Two moderate quakes rolled through Tokyo, but caused no reports of damage or injuries. Movements also were felt in southern Japan, west Java, Kodiak Island, the Alaskan Peninsula, south-central Alaska, the California desert resort of Palm Springs, northern Peru, and along the Brazil-Peru border.

Russian Spills

Government officials in Russia are waiting for winter's chill to congeal the massive oil spill that has fouled a large stretch of arctic environment in the northern Komi Republic. Evgeny Minayev, head of the ecology department of the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry, told Tass that frozen oil will be collected by excavators and carried away by trucks. As much as 200,000 tons of crude has leaked from a pipeline near the city of Usinsk since early February.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace delivered to Russian TV a dramatic video of a new arctic spill in the Komi region. The footage showed flaming oil and huge black clouds billowing over the tundra where oil workers tried to burn off the fresh crude.

Drunken Rampage

A herd of 74 wild elephants desperate for illegal home-brewed liquor trampled at least four people to death during a two-day rampage in eastern India. Police told the Press Trust of India that the drunken marauders were looking for breweries where their favorite country concoction, made from wild plants, is prepared by tribes people. The rampaging elephants seriously injured at least 50 other people, destroyed homes and wrecked rice crops in the eastern state of West Bengal.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. Is there a word in English that contains all six vowels?
A. Unquestionably.

Great Britain was part of the Roman Empire for 360 years — far longer than the United States has been a nation.

Just before Super Bowl XXI, a reporter asked the Denver Broncos' quarterback John Elway, "What's the stupidest question you've ever been asked?" Elway answered, "That's it."

Egyptian pyramids are aligned with the cardinal points of the compass.

Every language has its own distinct phrasings, rhythms, and tones ... and experts say a baby learns the music of the native tongue — though not necessarily the meaning — by age 8 months or earlier.

The early cartoon panel, "Ripley's Believe It or Not," was first called "Champs and Chumps."

Q. Which planets in our solar system don't have any moons?
A. As far as we know, only Mercury and Venus.

Eugene O'Neill wrote, "Life is for each man a solitary cell whose walls are mirrors."

Statistically, parents are more likely to hit their children than dog owners are to hit their dogs.

In the rainiest of the rainy season, locals in India's Cherrapunji expect three feet of rain a day.

Among divorced women, the suicide rate is three times that of married women. Among divorced men, it's four times that of married men.

Researchers claim that clocks on 16 out of every 100 household VCRs have blinked "12:00" ever since they were first plugged in.

Q. In Shakespeare's day, men's clothes didn't have pockets ... so what were pickpockets called?
A. Cutpurses.

The giant sloth, long extinct, weighed three tons and ate meat. Historical footnotes indicate it was on the list of beasts Lewis and Clark hoped to find in the West.

Chimpanzees can get polio.

Some barbers in China sell hair clippings for fertilizer.

Animal experts tell us that to a dog, its owner represents the leader of its pack. To a cat, its owner represents its mother.

Holland is only about half as big as Maine.

Fewer fathers now choose to remain in delivery rooms while their wives give birth. Three out of 10 did so in the 1970s. That rose to about seven out of 10 in the 1980s. Today's trend is dropping back as low as the 1970s mark.

Q. What was the first piece of sheet music in America to sell a million copies?

A. "The Maple Leaf Rag," in 1899.

The first child born to a mother under the influence of chloroform was named Christian Anesthesia.

Out of every 100 checks written today, one will bounce.

Add the name of Ellery Chun to the list of renowned fashion designers. It was he who in 1936 created what we now call the Hawaiian shirt.

What sociologists call the "Anna Karenina Principle" takes its name from the title of Leo Tolstoy's novel. The opening line goes: "Happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

A billionth of a billionth of a second is an "attosecond."

Karl Jung said, "Beautiful bodies and beautiful personalities rarely go together."

Q. How long did it take Congress to pass Medicare?
A. From 1958 to 1965.

Tropical winds collide spectacularly with Arctic air masses over Mt. Washington, N.H., where on April 24, 1934, instruments recorded the highest wind velocity ever: 231 MPH.

A hotel bedsheet is laundered 42 times before it's tossed out. A pillowcase, 33 times.

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Is there something I don't understand about this Marion Barry guy? He just got elected mayor of Dee Cee for like the fourth time.

Isn't this the same guy who was playing around with South American Nose Candy on "America's Funniest Home Videos"? Didn't the guy get caught red-handed doing drugs with a slinky lady in a red mini-skirt?

The only reason I'm a little vague on the details is that they no longer put this in the news articles about the guy.

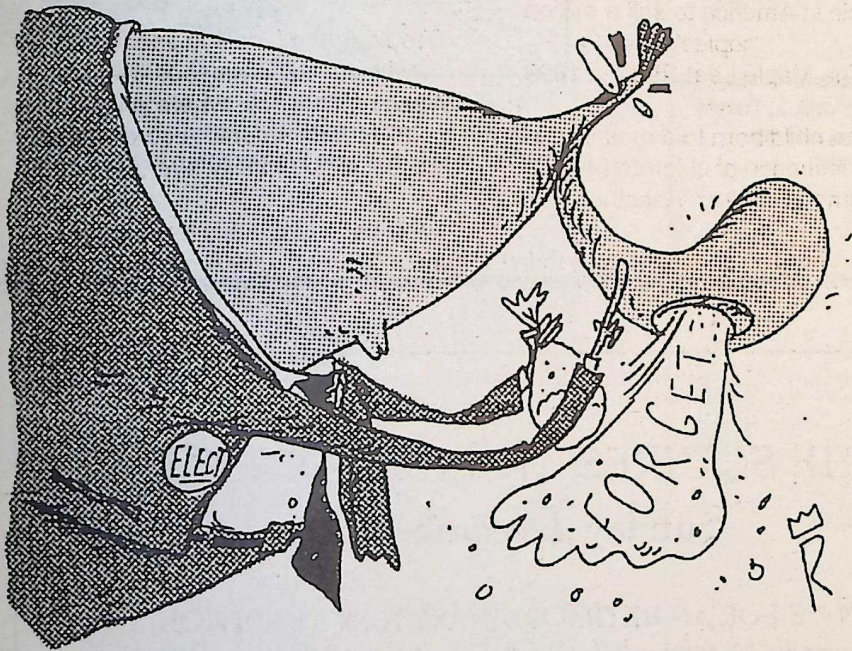
The media seems to have amnesia about it.

Anybody who was involved in Watergate gets called "Watergate conspirator Simon Minchisky" for the rest of his life, even if it's 20 years later, and the man is working with troubled youth in Encino.

This guy Barry commits a drug crime in one of the cites with *the worst drug problem*, and everybody goes, "Oh, well, let's not dredge up the past."

You know what I'm talkin' about here? I mean, it wouldn't be that hard. We could just invent one of those clever little *Newsweek* titles, like "Panama Strongman" or "Supermodel" or "Fitness Guru."

We could call him, like, "Toot-Loving Marion Barry" or "Sniffmeister Marion Barry" or maybe just "Marion 'The Connection' Barry." Of course, I realize that there's probably a huge cokehead vote in Dee Cee, but usually the people that are guilty of the same thing are the first to turn on a politician.



Look at how Bob Packwood is treated. The guy hasn't been convicted of anything, but the media thinks he should resign just to make it easier on the Senate.

With Powderman Barry, it's just the opposite. Barry told everybody that he's a *victim* in the whole deal, and the media *believed it*.

They duly reported all his allegations of being in a "racially-charged environment" — with a *straight face*. He said it with a straight face, and they reported it straight.

Listen to me, people.

If the voters of Dee Cee want a coke user running the city, that's okay with me. But if we're gonna roast every politician for every single little sin he might have committed 30 years ago, let's not leave this guy off the list, all right?

Some things don't have diddly-squat to do with race issues. They're just common sense.

What do you tell the 12-year-old kid who's starting to be exposed to serious drug users?

Better question: What does Marion Barry tell 'em?

I'm surprised I have to point this out.


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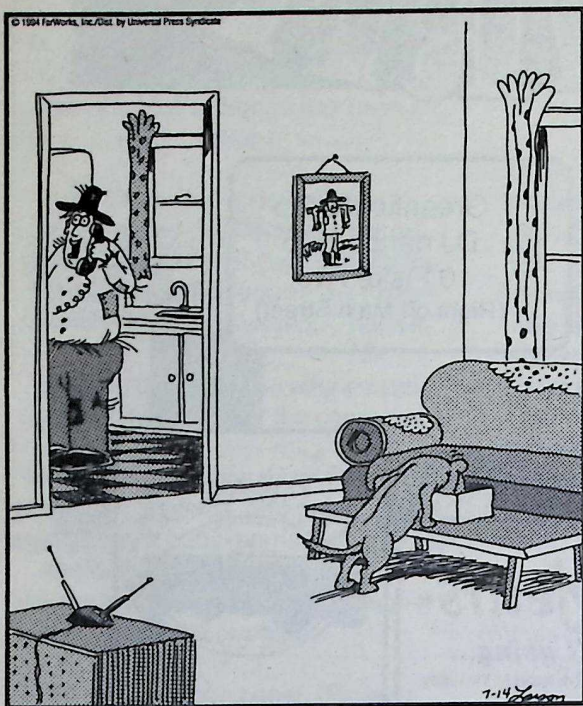
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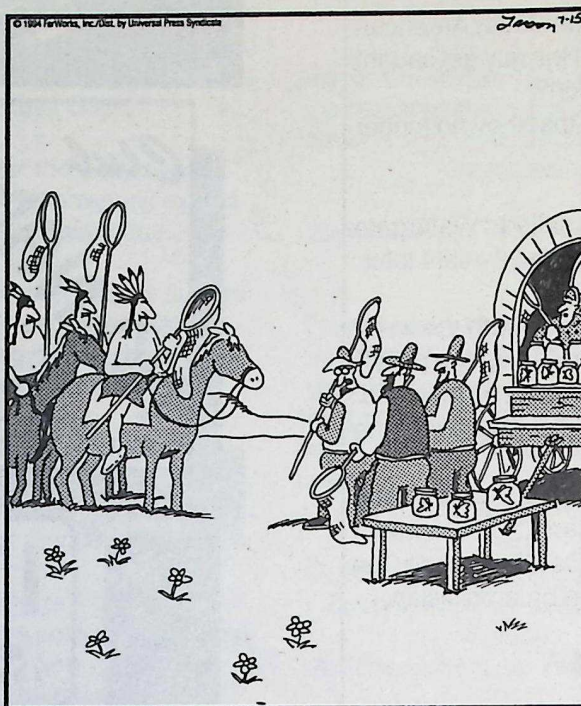
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THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"Yeah, I just got back! And the wizard I mentioned? He gave me a new brain! ... It's on the coffee table as we speak!"



"Everyone just keep their nets real still. ... They'll just want to look over our jars, and we best not try to stop them."



"Anybody else? ... This here's a school for *buffalo* hunters — and anyone who so much as *utters* the word 'bison' can join Morgenstern in the corner!"



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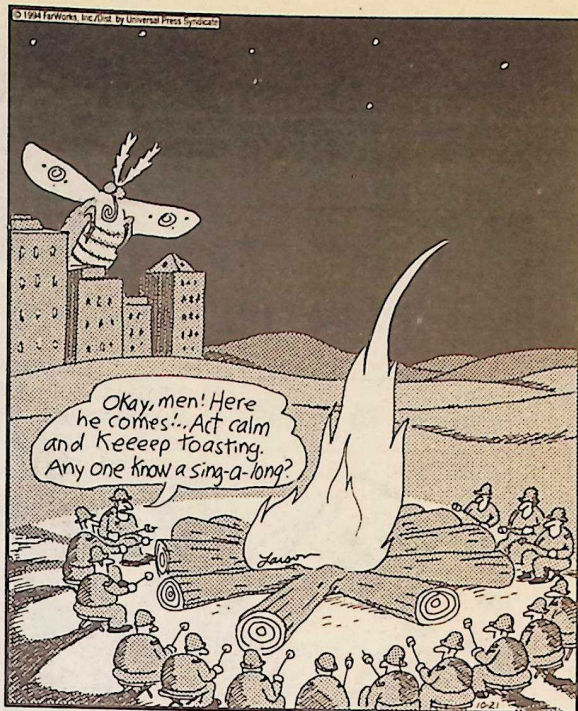
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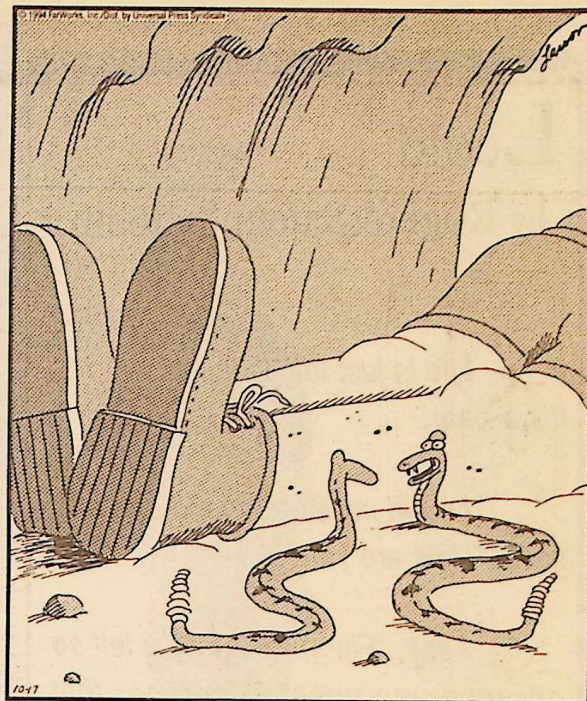
seating is limited, please reserve early.
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Executioner understudies



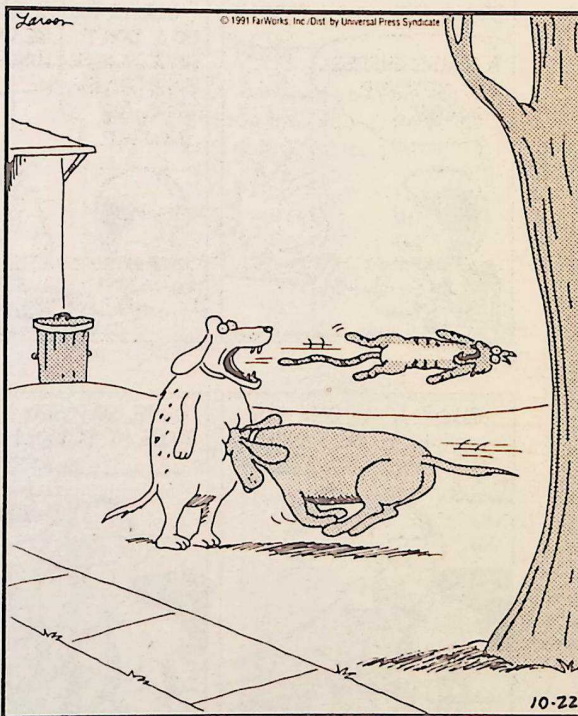
The Army's last-ditch effort to destroy Mothra.



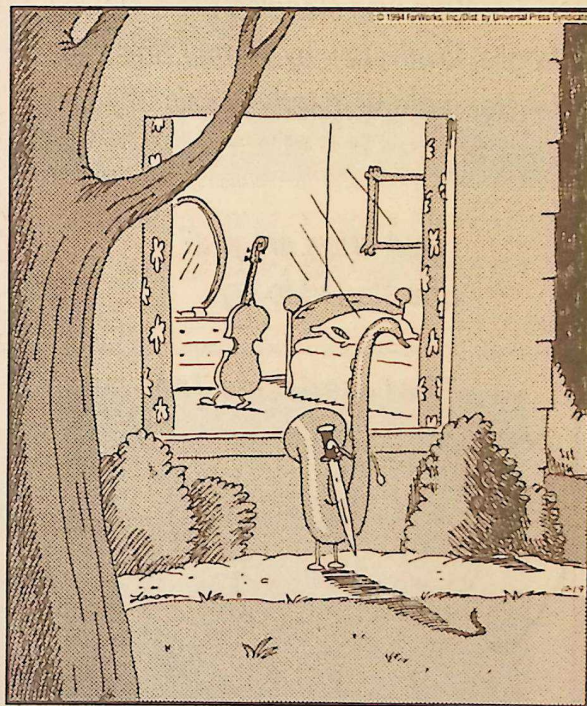
"Excuse me? Excuse me? ...I believe the biggest set of fang marks belong to me, my friend!"



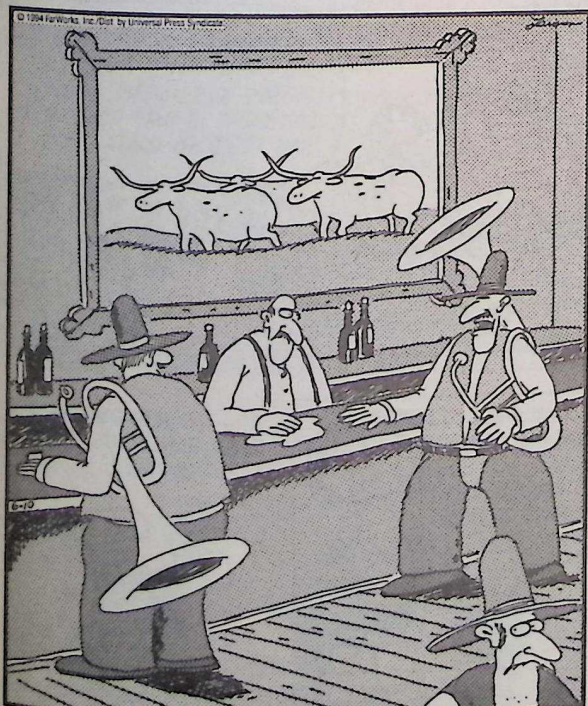
Life in the Old Weth



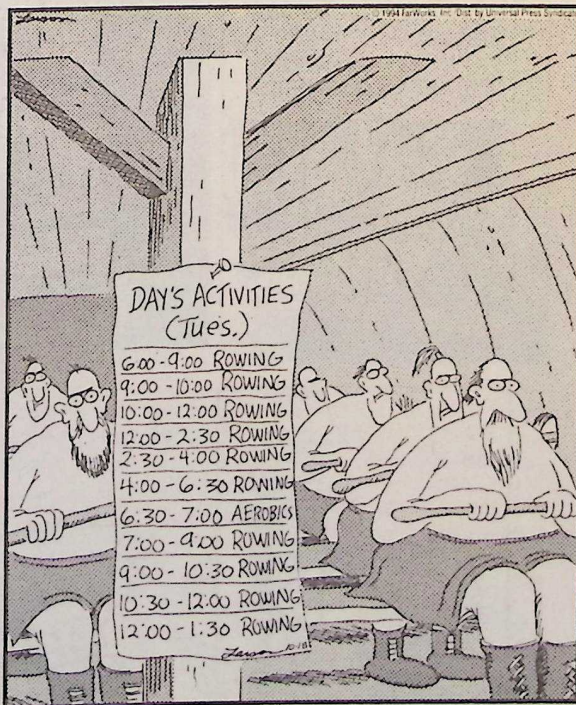
Fortunately for Sparky, Zeke knew the famous "Rex maneuver."



Scene from "Fiddle Attraction"



"So, they tell me you fancy yourself a tuba player."



Slave-ship daily schedules



The Valley Comic News • November 17, 1994 19

Leold

by Roger&Salem Salloom

Life is just totally tough.
It's a bear.

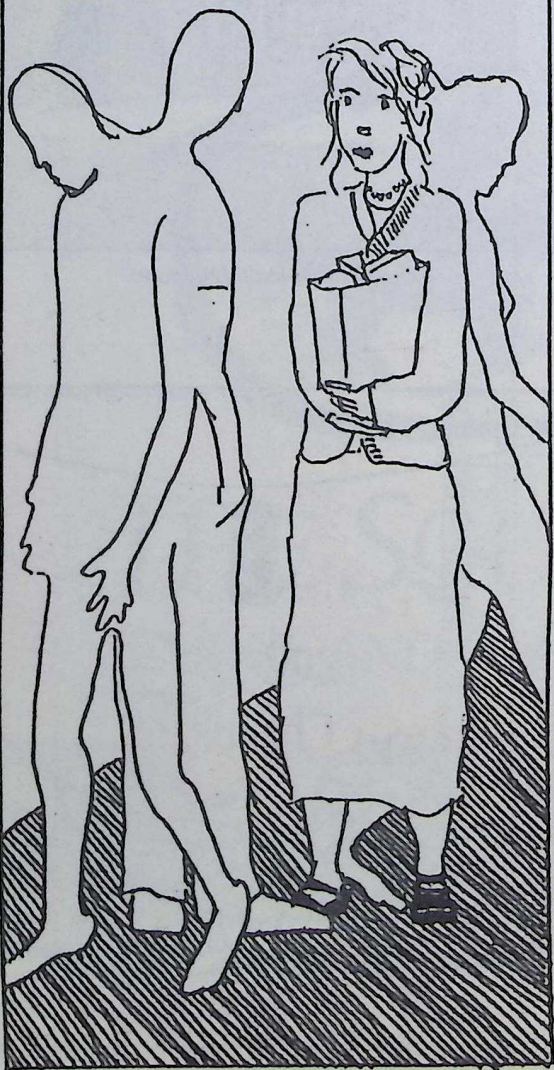
I meet my ex-girlfriend and she
says, "How are you?"

I say, "Fine." Actually, I felt so
nervous and upset to see her that
"Fine" described the tiny particles my
brain had broken into when I saw her.

She was standing there looking
fragile, lovely, hair by Warner Bros., lips
by Renoir, and gentle vocals by Lee
Remick.

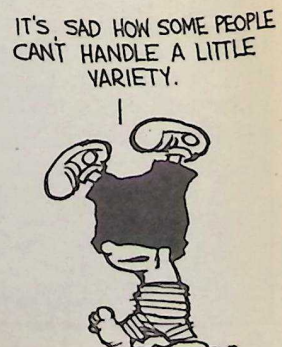
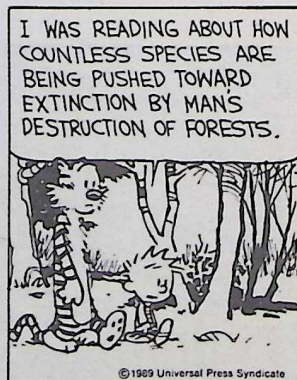
I said, "How are you?"
She started to cry.

That made me feel much
better.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON



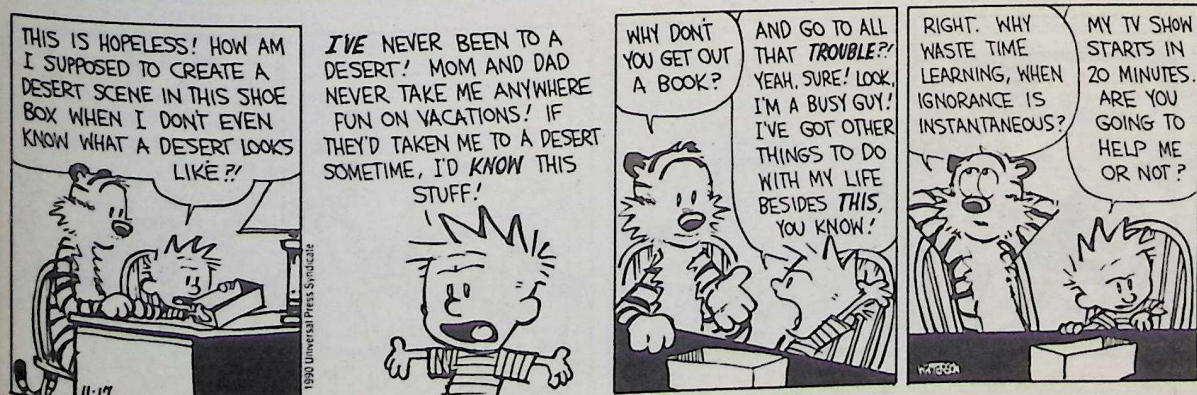
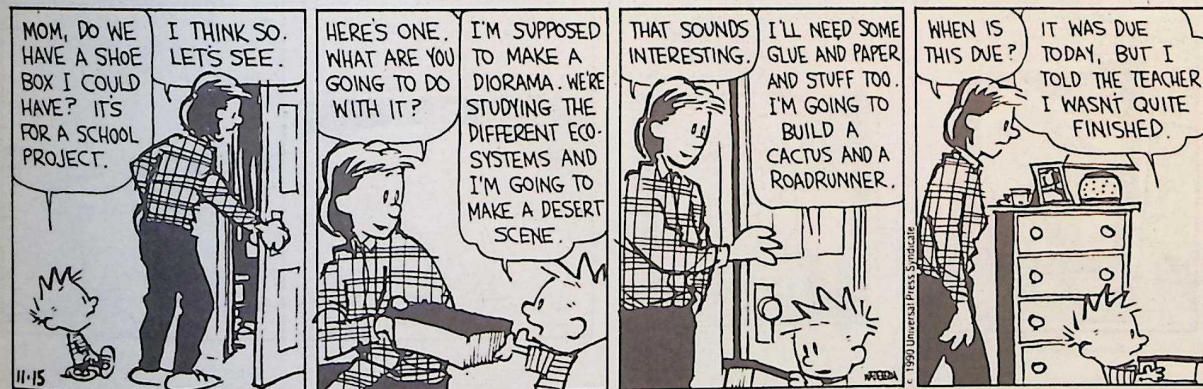
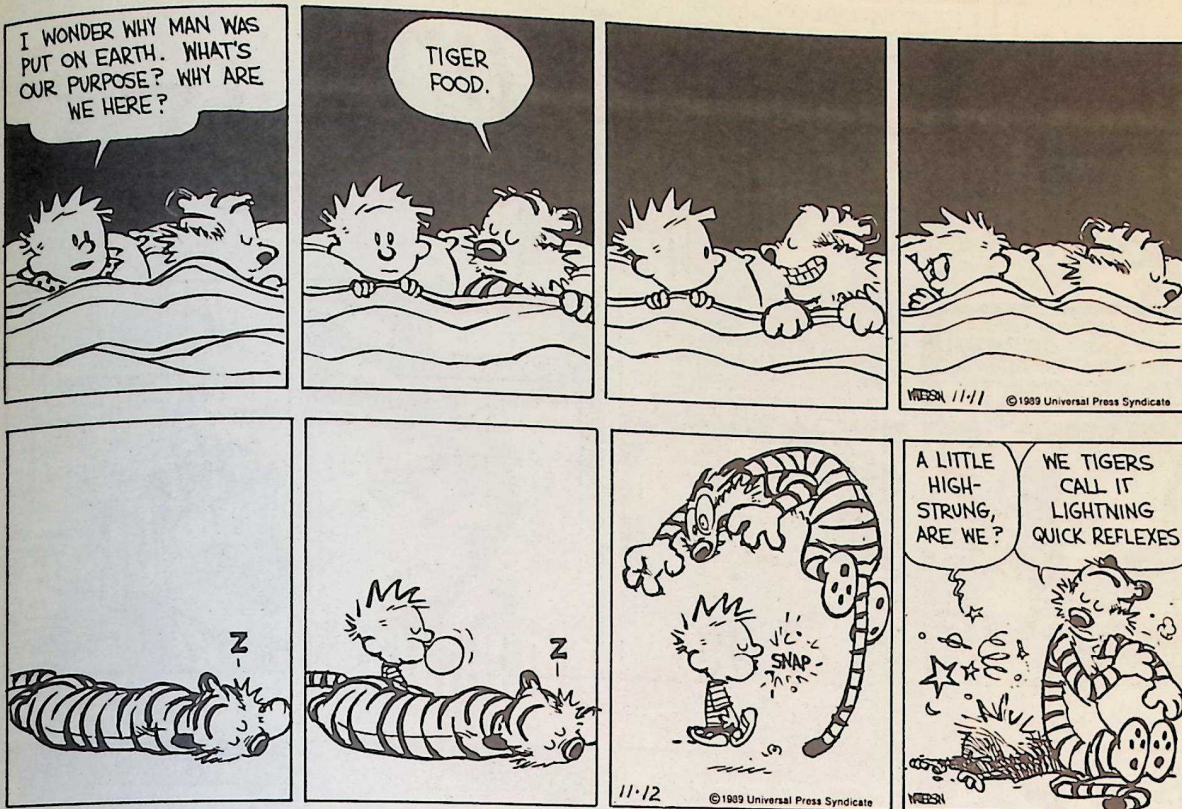


Photo: Jennifer Burdick



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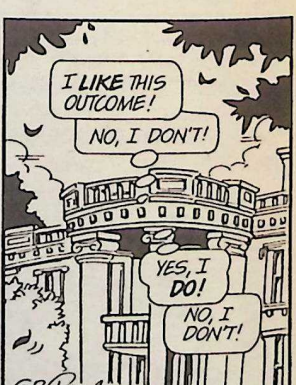
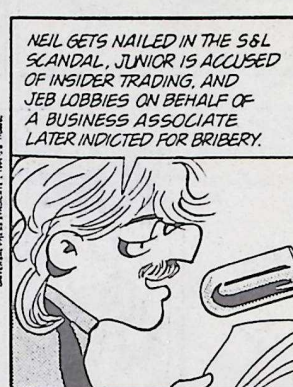
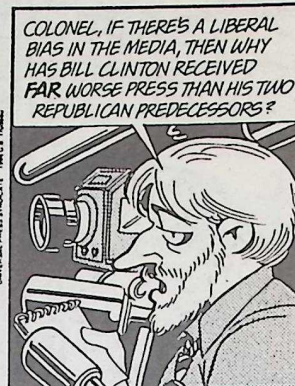
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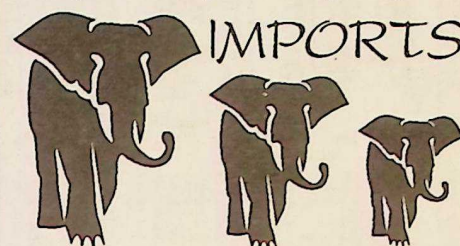
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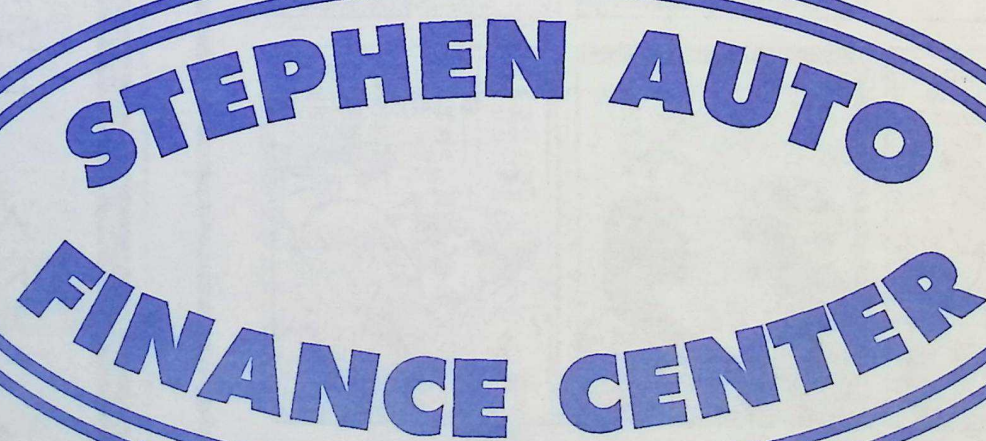
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